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ABSTRACT

Presented is the daily summary of activities of the sixth National Marine Education Conference held October 26-29, 1976 at Pacific Grove, California. Conference objectives were to develop a dialogue for marine education and to form the National Marine Education Association. (SL)

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A Report to the University of Maine, Office of Sea Grant concerning the 6th National Marine Education Conference, Pacific Grove, California, October 26-29, 1976

by

Richard M. Schlenker

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
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Introduction

The sixth National Marine Education Conference convened at Pacific Grove, California, at 2:00 PM on October 26, 1976. The conference brought together individuals from all echelons of the educational scheme, governmental leaders, and members of private industry. Paramount of the conference's objectives were two. First, to develop a dialogue amongst the participants concerning marine education. Second, to complete the foundation tasks necessary for the formation of the National Marine Education Association. These objectives were met through attendance at lectures, workshops, and participation in discussion groups and association planning sessions.

Conduct of the Conference

October 26

The first afternoon's activities included, (1) a film festival, (2) commercial equipment exhabit, (3) book exhabit, (4) steering committee meeting of the National Marine Education Association. The most important and in turn, the most significant of these activities was

SE 021 777

the steering committee meeting.

The steering committee meeting, chairmanned by Dr. James Schweitzer of the Louisiana Sea Grant Program, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, La., was opened with an address by Barbara Klemm, Assistant Director, Science Project, University Laboratory School, University of Hawaii. Klemm's presentation was a recapitulation of the previous steering committee meeting, followed by a summary of events which had transpired since the previous meeting. After much discussion, the steering committee was charged with the development of, (1) a set of association bylaws, (2) a draft of a statement of purpose for the association, (3) an annual budget for the coming year, (4) a slate of prospective officers. The committee was further charged with a completion (for these tasks) deadline of Thursday afternoon, October 28.

October 27

The day's activities were opened by conference coordinator, Thayer Shafer's introduction. Following Shafer's introductory remarks, Dallas Minor, Special Assistant for Education, Office of Coastal Zone Management, NOAA, Washington, D. C., delivered the day's major address, "Marine Studies and the Coastal Zone." Additional sessions of the day included:

1. "Manpower and Technical Training," by Dr. Kenneth Stibolt of Ann Arundal Community College.
2. "On Water Problems" by Nancy Richardson of the Mariner

Program, San Francisco Bay, Girl Scouts of America.

3. "Aquaria, Parks and Museums" by Dr. Warren Little, Education Director, New England Aquarium, Boston, Ma.
4. "Discovery Hall Project" coauthored by Frederick Rees, Instructor, Daulphin Island Sea Laboratory, Dalphin Island, Alabama, and Thomas Walker, Instructor, Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium, Dalphin Island, Ala.
5. "Marine Option Program" by John McMahon, Program Coordinator, Marine Education and Training, University of Hawaii.
6. "Cupertino Field Program (multi-media)," by William Hyland, Oceanography/Biology instructor, Cupertino, California High School.
7. "Oceanic Society," by W. Tay Vaughn.
8. "Project Coast," by Dr. Robert Stegner of the University of Delaware.
9. "Marine Science Seminars for High School Students," by Leonard Wazdeck.
10. "Marine Programs of the University of California Sea Grant Advisory Program," by Christopher Dewees, Extension Resource Specialist of the University of California Sea Grant Advisory Program.
11. "Marine Biological Institute," by Karen Keefer, Education Director of the Ecological Institute at Redwood City, California.

12. "The Establishment of a Marine Science Field Station in Conjunction with the Development of Marine Science Educational Programs," by Dr. Arthur West of the Department of Biology at Sulfolk University.

The daytime sessions were followed by an evening address titled, "A National Policy Statement for NOAA and the U. S. Office of Education." The address was delivered by Harold Goodwin, past assistant director of the National Sea Grant Program. Goodwin is currently acting as a consultant to the University of Delaware Office of Sea Grant.

October 28

The Day's introductory remarks were delivered by Dr. Jame Schweitzer of Louisiana State University. Following these remarks, Dr. John Bardach, the world reknown biologist and author and current director of the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, delivered the keynote address of the day. Bardach's address was titled, "From Herding to Husbandary: Living Resources Management for the 21st Century." The day's keynote address was followed by the by:

1. "Marine Studies in Elementary Education," by Dr. Robert Stegner.
2. "Secondary School Marine Education," by Barbara Klemm.
3. "Local and Regional Marine Education Associations," by Richard Raymond of the New York Sea Grant Advisory Service Extension Association and the New York Marine Education Association.

4. "Marine Sciences Under Sail," by Ned Webster, coordinator of marine science programs in Big Pine Key, Florida.
5. "Effluent Society," by David Miller, an audio visual producer from Seattle, Washington.
6. "Techniques of Underwater & Field Photography," by Frederick W. Roberts of Azusa High School, Azusa, Ca.
7. "OBIS (Outdoor Biological Instructional Strategies)," by David Buller of Lawrence Hall of Science, University of California at Berkeley.
8. "Sea Urchin Lab," by Rim Fay, a west coast dealer in biological supplies.
9. "Recreation Boating Educational Project," by Dr. Marvin Reichle of the Health and Physical Education Department, University of Houston.
10. "Blue Water Marine Lab," by John McMahon, University of Hawaii.

On the evening of October 28, the business meeting of the National Marine Education Association was held. During the session, the bylaws were discussed and adopted, Association officers and members of the board of directors were elected, Association roles and priorities were discussed, and various Association committees were formed. Of thoses elected to the various offices, Richard Schlenker was elected to the post of National Secretary. The business meeting was followed

by a film festival.

October 29

The main and only address of the day was delivered by the Association's newly elected president. His address was titled, "Where do We go From Here." The remainder of the day was taken by NMEA committee meetings and field trips.

Other Guests and Attendants

During the period of the conference, the participants numbered as many as 200. The group was well represented by a cross section of the educational community. Aside from the K-graduate school public school educators who were in attendance, certain others deserve mention as the organizations they represented serve to show the diversity of interests represented at the conference.

1. John T. Willis, Professional Staff, National Advisory Committee on the Oceans and Atmosphere. This group has been charged by the Congress with synthesizing a National Ocean Policy for the United States.
2. CDR Manuel Tubella, Jr. USCG, United States Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety.
3. Captain Dean Taylor USN, Chief of Staff at the United States Navy Post Graduate School, Monterey, Ca.
4. Linda Sadler, Planner, Office of Coastal Zone Management, NOAA, Washington, D. C.
5. Frederick Laney, National Oceanic and Atmospheric

Administration Training Officer, NOAA, Rockville, Md.

6. William Connally, owner of The Island Packers Company, Ventura, Ca.
7. Karen Hensel of the New York Zoological Society, and associate curator, New York Aquarium.
8. Richard Murphy of the Aegir Corporation and editor of the Journal of Marine Education.
9. Norman Okamura, political scientist, University of Hawaii.
10. Mel Siefert, director of the aquaculture program, Sitka, Alaska.
11. Donald Wilke, director of Scripps Aquarium, Scripps Institute.

Summary and Conclusions

The sixth National Marine Education Conference convened on October 26, 1976 in Pacific Grove, California. The conference brought together educators from widely dispersed sections of the contiguous 48 states, as well as Alaska and Hawaii. Additionally, it brought interested people from industry and government. The primary purposes of the conference were to facilitate the development of a marine education dialogue amongst the participants, and consummate the foundation of the National Marine Education Association. The conference concluded its' activities

on October 29, 1976.

The following list of conclusions are based upon personal observations. In some cases they are necessarily somewhat subjective, especially since the observer was also a conference participant.

1. The conference participants were energetic and ambitious.
2. The conference participants were enthusiastic about marine education.
3. Although the majority of the participants had educational and professional backgrounds founded in the sciences, they were readily willing to define marine literacy as a cross diciplinary endeavor.
4. The participants generally agreed that educating a population to the degree of marine literacy necessary to make conscious decisions regarding that environment, requires an integrated kindergarten through graduate school effort.
5. The future of the human as a species may well depend upon the educational communities ability to educate the public to an acceptable level of marine literacy.
6. The major objectives of the conference were easily met. Namely, an excellent dialogue, as previously mentioned, was developed. Additionally, the necessary work regarding the National Marine Education Association was accomplished.
7. The National Sea Grant Program, The Office of Coastal

Zone Management, and the U. S. Office of Education as agents of the Congress, may be expected to contribute tens of millions of dollars to marine education in the coming decade.

8. The states of Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, Louisiana, Delaware, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island have to date made large financial commitments to precollege marine education. A large portion of these monies originated from the National Sea Grant Program.
9. A readjustment of National Sea Grant policies suggests that in the future within National Sea Grant, scientific research and public education will be more on a parity than they have been in the past.
10. The National Marine Education Association in the future, can be looked upon as a leader in the movement to educate a marine scientifically literate public.
11. Marine Education in the public schools, should be placed on a par with reading, writing and arithematic.